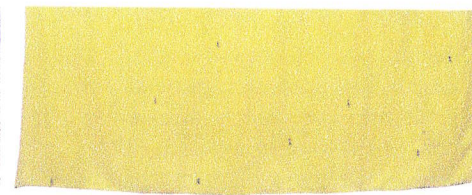




Kaspar Bonnen.



Timur Novikov

◀ An exhibit from “H2O: Nordic and Russian Art in Public Spaces”, the Peter and Paul Fortress.

Watch This Space

The editor of Hermitage Magazine previews the local arts scene for the autumn season.

BY CHRISTOPHER GORDON

In a city where the urban space is itself a work of art, finding worthwhile exhibitions to visit isn't always as easy as one might hope. True, there is no end to what one can discover trawling through the rooms of the Hermitage or the Russian Museum. But when it comes to exciting temporary exhibitions that offer the latest cutting-edge art experience, St. Petersburg often leaves a lot to be desired.

Compared to most cities of similar size, St. Petersburg has a dearth of commercial galleries showing world-class art. However,

there are still a few trailblazers doing their best to put important exhibitions on gallery walls. Rather than hop on the train to Moscow, intrepid inhabitants of the city need only do a little digging to find the new and noteworthy.

St. Petersburg's smaller museums and non-profits usually do best when it comes to showcasing the newest art. An exhibition of public art — the first in the city — is about to hit town and looks set to be the event of the season.

With an impressive line-up of artists that have shown their work at important exhibitions from the Venice Biennale to Kassel's Documenta, “H2O: Nordic and Russian Art in Public Spaces” brings together lead-

ing artists from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and St. Petersburg to create site-specific installations on the theme of water. The show is to be held at the Peter and Paul Fortress from Sept. 1–14 and promises interactive objects, video installations, light projections and sculptures, all elucidating the theme of water in different ways. Kaspar Bonnén (Denmark), A. K. Dolven (Norway), Tommi Grönlund and Petteri Nisunen, Carl Michael von Hausswolff (Sweden), Jacob Kirkegaard (Denmark), Finnbogi Petursson (Iceland) and home-grown talents Yury Shtapakov and Pavel Shugurov will create new works for the exhibition that will be installed in and around the Fortress — from the beach to the

dungeon. A parallel project will feature the work of young St. Petersburg artists in the garden of the Anna Akhmatova Museum at Fontanny Dom. This exhibition, entitled “Fountain,” is also dedicated to the theme of water.

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